

1st WASHINGTON SCOUT GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
YEAR TO 31 March 2024



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Group Executive Members

Ex Officio

Chair	Mrs Emma Little
Secretary	Ms Rebecca Cowley
Treasurer	Fiona Slater
Group Lead Volunteer	Mr Douglas McIntyre
Beaver Lead Volunteer	Ms Lea Scott
Cub Lead Volunteer	Ms Sam Carter (resigned 2.8.24)
Scout Lead Volunteer	Mr Mark Lloyd
Explorer Lead Volunteer	Mr Robin Kennedy

Elected

Ms Victoria Welsh
Dr Jane Halpin
Mrs Jane McIntyre

Nominated

Ms Dizzy Peverley
Mr Andy Gray (resigned 2.8.24)
Mr Simon Harrison (appointed 13.9.23)
Miss Georgia Turnbull (appointed 2.11.24)

Bankers	NatWest Bank Plc
Scout Registration number	2558
Charity Registration Number	520716
Contact name and address	Mr Douglas McIntyre 59 Burnhope Road Washington NE38 8DZ

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The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2024.

The legal and administrative details of the Group are shown elsewhere in this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, Policy, Organisation and Rules of the Scout Association (POR) and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities (2005).

Objectives of the Group

The Group was formed in 1916 by the adoption of POR by the founding Group leaders, who also acted as Trustees. The Group's aim, in common with that of the Scout Association, is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Organisation

The Group is managed by the Trustees, who meet regularly to discuss all aspects of day to day running. The leaders of the Group are Trustees by virtue of their position as a leader.

Investment powers

The Group's investment powers are set out in POR.

Review of Activities

The Group continues to thrive, thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of the volunteer teams. They are committed, across all sections, to giving the young people the best possible experiences. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them wholeheartedly for all that they do in giving up their time for the benefit of their young people.

Behind the leadership teams there is the Trustee Board, formerly Group Executive committee. This comprises a Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and Trustee members. It is their responsibility to ensure the Group is managed satisfactorily, is financially secure and to ensure that everything is in place to ensure Safety and Safeguarding of all members. They also ensure that all the necessary resources are in place to support the volunteers. Not all of the Trustee board hold volunteer roles in Sections and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their continued work and support.

Becci Cowley has been our Secretary for a number of years and has done a sterling job. Unfortunately, the role of Secretary has been discontinued as part of restructuring of the Trustee Board. Becci was also struggling to balance her commitments between family and other things so decided to stand down. I would like to acknowledge and thank Becci for all that she has done over the last few years. She will be continuing in role with Beavers and Squirrels, I am delighted to say.

NUMBERS

Pre Covid, we had in excess of 100 young people through two Beaver colonies, two Cub packs, a Scout Troop and Explorer Unit. Since Covid our numbers have diminished, in the lower

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sections particularly. As a result of that and the shortage of adult volunteers we had to close a Beaver Colony and Cub pack.

Whilst not relevant to the accounting year we opened a Squirrel Drey in October 2024 with an initial target of 12 young people. That is coming along nicely.

At Census in January 2023 we had 88 yp.

In January 2024 the numbers had dropped to 79.

As at today we have 74 plus 9 Squirrels registered on OSM.

Adult volunteer numbers are reasonably healthy, thanks to a combination of young people taking leader roles once they have turned 18, a number of adults having upgraded their roles and a few additional adults having been recruited. Sadly, the Cub Team is the one with the least numbers. I have aspirations to reopen the second Beaver Colony and Cub Pack again but without additional volunteers that is not practical at this time. Both second sections would need to be reopened at the same time to give satisfactory opportunity for transition between the sections.

At September 2024 we had a total of around 43 adults registered with the Group. Of these 29 are active, the remaining holding Occasional Helper roles.

Sam Carter resigned her role earlier this year because of various pressures on her time. She did a great job. Thomas took over the Leadership and has blossomed in the role supported by his Team.

Simon Harrison joined our Group about a year ago as my Deputy Group Scout Leader, having resigned his role earlier from 1st Eppleton Scout Group. His knowledge, skills, enthusiasm and drive are boundless and he has added a whole new dimension to the management team. Simon is also a Training Advisor and it is thanks to his unqualified support and coaching that a number of our new volunteers have moved swiftly through their training to complete their roles. I can't thank him enough for all that he has done and will continue to do.

Last but not least I would like to thank my wife Jane, who continues to support, guide and encourage me in my role. That has been unwavering over a period of over 30 years.

CHANGES

Scouting is undergoing a number of changes:-

- Changes to the constitution and responsibilities of the Trustee Board are to be implemented subsequent to this AGM. The role of the Trustees will be restricted to Governance and Safety. Routine management matters will be dealt with by a new Support Team.
- Compass, the Scout Association database for adults, has been in place for a number of years. That is now offline pending the roll out of a new digital system that will radically transform the way that we work. Roll out will begin in phases from late November and is scheduled to be rolled out to all members by 2 December 2024.

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- Lastly, Scouting is being moved to a Teams based structure. As part of that the names of roles is changing, eg The Group Scout Leader becomes Group Lead Volunteer. The Section Leaders become Team Leaders. The Assistant Section Leaders and Section Assistants will all become Team Members. Training will be restructured in keeping with this. The way we recruit new volunteers is also to be overhauled.

We await the roll out of the new system to assess the overall impact.

Policy on reserves

In general, it is the Group's aim to maintain sufficient funds to ensure the success of all of its activities and to provide a contingency to support equipment replacement and unforeseen expenses at short notice. A sum of £1,500 has been designated as this contingency. Currently we have a healthy balance, thanks to the benefit of the Grant support referred to earlier.

Risk management

The Trustees assess the major strategic and operational risks faced by the Group on an ongoing basis and react to mitigate these risks. Through the Scout Association we arrange insurance to cover liability, personal accident and injury to young people and leaders as well as adequate insurance cover for camping and activity equipment and the Group's minibus.

Grant making policy

The Group does not have a policy in respect of making grants.

Approval of the Trustees report

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf.

E M Little

Mrs E Little

Group Chair

17th November 2024

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1st Washington Scout Group (Charity no. 520716)			
Receipts and payments account			
		Year start date	Year end date
	For the year from	1st April 2023	To 31st March 2024
Receipts and payments			
		2023/24	2022/23
		Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
		£	£
Receipts			
Donations, legacies and similar income			
Membership subscriptions		13,705	16,152
Donations		85	170
Legacies		-	-
Gift Aid		3,420	2,317
Other similar income		-	-
Sub total		17,210	18,638
Grants			
Maintenance grant		-	-
Other grants		-	1,692
Sub total		-	1,692
Fundraising events (gross)			
Events income		11,369	6,295
Section income		-	-
Other fundraising activities		-	-
Sub total		11,369	6,295
Scout hut income			
Hire of building		1,125	875
Hire of minibus		1,452	593
Other Scout hut income		-	-
Sub total		2,577	1,468
Investment income			
Bank interest		421	177
Bank compensation		-	-
The Scout Association Short Term Investment Service		-	-
Other investment income		-	-
Sub total		421	177
Total Gross Income		31,577	28,270
Asset and investment sales, etc.		-	-
Total receipts		31,577	28,270

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		Year start date	Year end date
	For the year from	1st April 2023	To 31st March 2024
Receipts and payments			
		2023/24	2022/23
		Unrestricted funds	Unrestricted funds
		£	£
Payments			
Charitable Payments			
Membership subscriptions paid on (National/County/Area/District)		3,911	4,268
Youth programme and activities		15,008	8,770
Adult support and training		45	372
Rent and Rates		38	72
Water and Sewerage		460	158
Electricity and Gas		745	955
Broadband		501	378
Insurance		953	1,042
Cleaning		1,432	1,590
Repairs and Renewals		10,555	5,616
Materials and equipment		3,414	2,531
Badges and neckers		969	1,044
Minibus and trailer expenses		2,399	1,945
OSM fees		234	264
GoCardless fees		619	688
AGM and trustee expenses		-	-
Miscellaneous		-	256
Sub total		41,282	29,948
Fundraising expenses			
Detail 1		-	-
Detail 2		-	-
Detail 3		-	-
Other fundraising costs		-	-
Sub total		-	-
		41,282	29,948
Total Gross Expenditure			
		-	-
Asset and investment purchases, etc.			
		41,282	29,948
Total payments			
		-	1,678
Net of receipts/(payments)			
Cash funds last year end		38,199	39,877
Cash funds this year end		28,494	38,199

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Receipts and payments account			
	Year start date		Year end date
	For the year from	1st April 2023	To 31st March 2024
Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the year			
	2023/24		2022/23
	Unrestricted funds		Unrestricted funds
	£		£
Cash funds			
Bank current account ****4502	853		860
Bank deposit account ****3117	25,730		36,646
Bank deposit accounts ****6336 and ****4588	420		101
Equals Money account	1,370		558
Cash/Floats	122		34
Total cash funds	28,494		38,199
Other monetary assets			
Tax claim	-		-
Debts due from the County/Area/District/Group	-		-
Insurance claim	-		-
Sub total	-		-
Investment assets			
Investment property - detail	-		-
Quoted investments	-		-
Other investments - detail	-		-
Sub total	-		-
Non monetary assets for charity's own use			
Badge stock	-		-
Shop stock	-		-
Other stock	-		-
Land and buildings	125,000		125,000
Motor vehicles	3,000		3,500
Scouting equipment, furniture etc	15,000		15,000
Other	-		-
Sub total	143,000		143,500
Liabilities			
Accounts not yet paid	-		-
Expenses incurred but not invoiced	-		-
Subscriptions not yet paid	-		-
Loan - detail	-		-
Other liabilities	-		-
Sub total	-		-
Total net assets	171,494		181,699
<p>The above receipts and payments account and statement of assets and liabilities were approved by the Trustees on 17th November 2024 and signed on their behalf by</p>			
Signature		Print Name	
<i>E M Little</i>		E M Little	Chair
<i>F M Slater</i>		F M Slater	Treasurer

Notes to the Accounts

Accounting policies

1. Income shown in the Receipts and Payment Account is before deduction of any expenses.
2. Non-monetary assets shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities has been given as an estimated valuation by the Trustees based on their knowledge of the assets involved and their age and condition.
3. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2000) for Charities, as applicable to the Group.
4. The receipts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Independent Examiner's Report

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of 1st Washington Scout Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) but that an independent examination is needed, in accordance with the financial rules of the charity.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Acthave not been met or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

John Edwards
2 Rose Cottages
Windlass Lane
Washington
Tyne and Wear
NE37 1BD

November 12th 2024